Foreign Investments in E.O.Us.

1271. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an agency to clear all proposals of foreign investment in Export Processing units through single window clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The single window mechanism for according approval to proposals under EOU/EPZ Scheme is as follows :

Proposals of foreign investment in Export Oriented Units fulfilling the conditions of automatic approval are cleared by the Development Commissioner of respective zone for setting up the units within the zone and by the Secretariat for Industrial Approval (SIA) in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for setting up of units outside the zone; normally in a period of 15 days.

Other proposals are cleared by the respective Export Processing Zone Board for units inside the Zone and by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board for units outside the zone; normally in a period of 45 days.

Infrastructural Constraints

1272. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove existing infrastructural constraints on priority basis in order to sustain current industrial boom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government has already considered deregulation of production and distribution in some of the basic infrastructure services. The Union Budget 1996-97 has also proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised capital of Rs. 5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sectors.

Non-Official Directors in Banks

1273. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-official directors working in banks at present;

(b) the details of powers and responsibilities of these directors;

(c) whether the Government review the performance of such directors from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism developed so far for such review?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) At present there are 131 part time non official directors on the boards of 19 nationalised banks.

(b) The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 and the Schemes framed thereunder do not specify the powers and responsibilities of such directors. However, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of a nationalised bank vest in a board of directors of the bank, including non official directors.

(c) and (d). Since the Board of Directors of each bank discharges its duties in a collective manner no formal review of the performance of individual non-official directors has been attempted so far.

Promotion of Agro-Based Activities

1274. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main role of the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) in terms of major schemes for promotion and development of agriculture and agro-based activities.

(b) the details of targets set and achievements made during each of the last three years and reasons for shortfall, if any, in general and for Maharashtra in particular, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(c) the details of tentative financial allocation for the current year for Maharashtra to carry out agricultural/ agro-based development activities and the targets set therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex level refinancing agency providing refinance support to commercial banks, State Cooperative Banks, State Land Development Banks and Regional Rural Banks for inter-alia financing and promoting various economic activities in the rural farm and non-farm sector. For the purpose it has framed several schemes for agriculture and rural development. The schemes for which refinance is available from NABARD include minor irrigation including lift irrigation, land development, plantation and horticulture which include hi-tech floriculture, animal husbandry, storage and market yards, forestry, agro-processing industries, seed processing including tissue-culture, pisciculture, farm mechanisation, bio-gas, non-